

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Claims 1, 11, 20, 25, 34, 41, 44, 52 and 55 are amended.

Claims 1-57 remain in the application and are listed below:

1. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

automatically switching between displays of the two or more electronic presentations based upon viewer-defined preferences.

2. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic presentation titles.

3. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur within electronic presentations.

4. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur within electronic presentations.

1
2 5. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
3 wherein the viewer defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one
4 of:

5 specific electronic presentation titles;
6 topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and
7 events that can occur within electronic presentations.

8
9 6. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
10 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities
11 that can be assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

12
13 7. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
14 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities
15 that can be assigned to events that can occur within the two or more
16 electronic presentations.

17
18 8. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,
19 wherein said automatically switching comprises enabling a picture-in-
20 picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic
21 presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

22
23 9. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
24 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
25 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 1.

1
2 10. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
3 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
4 computer, implement the method of claim 1.
5

6 11. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
7 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

8 simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations
9 that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises
10 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a
11 viewer; and

12 automatically notifying a viewer when one or more of the electronic
13 presentations satisfies a viewer-defined preference.
14

15 12. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
16 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic
17 presentation titles.
18

19 13. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
20 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur
21 within electronic presentations.
22

23 14. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
24 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur
25 within electronic presentations.

1
2 15. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
3 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:

4 specific electronic presentation titles;

5 topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and

6 events that can occur within electronic presentations.
7

8 16. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
9 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be
10 assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.
11

12 17. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the
13 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be
14 assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic
15 presentations.
16

17 18. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein said
18 automatically notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP)
19 display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations
20 are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.
21

22 19. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
23 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
24 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 11.
25

1 20. (Currently Amended) One or more programmable computers
2 having instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers
3 implement a viewing management method for managing viewing of
4 multiple live electronic presentations comprising:

5 sending at least one viewer request to an encoder, the viewer
6 request containing one or more viewer-defined preferences that relate to
7 one or more events that can occur in one or more electronic presentations;

8 evaluating, with the encoder, one or more electronic presentations
9 that are being broadcast to determine whether any of the viewer-defined
10 preferences are satisfied, wherein said evaluating comprises at least
11 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a
12 viewer; and

13 if a viewer-defined preference is satisfied by one or more of the
14 electronic presentations, notifying a viewer that is associated with the
15 viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

16
17 21. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
18 claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the
19 electronic presentation that satisfied the viewer-defined preference.

20
21 22. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
22 claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia for the
23 viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was
24 satisfied.

1 23. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
2 claim 20, wherein said viewing management method further comprises
3 prior to said sending:

4 receiving viewer requests with a server, the viewer requests
5 originating from a plurality of different viewers; and

6 maintaining at least a list of viewers and their viewer-defined
7 preferences in the server,

8 said sending comprising sending the viewer requests from the
9 server to the encoder.

10
11 24. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of
12 claim 23, wherein said notifying comprises:

13 sending a notification from the encoder to the server;

14 receiving the notification sent from the encoder; and

15 sending a notification from the server to the viewer.

16
17 25. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
18 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

19 receiving one or more viewer requests from one or more viewers,
20 the viewer requests containing viewer-defined preferences that are to be
21 used to evaluate a plurality of different live electronic presentations;

22 evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using the
23 viewer-defined preferences, wherein said evaluating comprises at least
24 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a
25 viewer; and

1 in the event that one or more of the viewer-defined preferences is
2 satisfied, notifying at least one viewer that is associated with the viewer-
3 defined preference that is satisfied.
4

5 26. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
6 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic
7 presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is
8 satisfied.
9

10 27. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
11 wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia of the electronic
12 presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is
13 satisfied.
14

15 28. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
16 wherein said notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP)
17 display for a viewer in which at least two electronic presentations are
18 contemporaneously displayed for the viewer, one of the electronic
19 presentations comprising one which is associated with the viewer-defined
20 preference that is satisfied.
21

22 29. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
23 wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to
24 receive the viewer requests and notify the viewers.
25

1 30. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
2 wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to
3 receive the viewer requests, evaluate the live electronic presentations, and
4 notify the viewers.

5
6 31. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,
7 wherein said evaluating comprises:

8 receiving information describing the electronic presentations as
9 they are being broadcast;

10 receiving updated information describing the electronic
11 presentations as they are being broadcast; and

12 evaluating all of the information that is received in light of the
13 viewer-defined preferences.

14
15 32. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
16 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
17 the one or more computers to implement the method of claim 25.

18
19 33. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
20 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
21 computer, implement the method of claim 25.

22
23 34. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
24 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:
25

1 creating a viewer request that contains one or more viewer-defined
2 preferences for use in evaluating one or more live electronic presentations;
3 sending the viewer request to one or more computing devices; and
4 evaluating one or more electronic presentations with the one or
5 more computing devices in light of the one or more viewer-defined
6 preferences, wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data
7 that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer.
8

9 35. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34
10 further comprising using the one or more computing devices to send a
11 notification to a viewer in the event that one or more of the electronic
12 presentations satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.
13

14 36. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34
15 further comprising automatically displaying an electronic presentation for
16 a viewer in the event that the electronic presentation satisfies one or more
17 of the viewer-defined preferences.
18

19 37. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,
20 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific
21 electronic presentation titles.
22

23 38. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,
24 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that
25 can occur in electronic presentations.

1
2 39. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,
3 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that
4 can occur in electronic presentations.

5
6 40. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
7 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
8 computer, implement the method of claim 34.

9
10 41. (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:
11 one or more client viewing devices; and
12 one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the
13 one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being
14 programmed to:

15 simultaneously monitor one or more electronic presentations
16 that are concurrently broadcast by at least monitoring data that does not
17 comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

18 automatically send a notification to one or more of the client
19 viewing devices when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies
20 one or more viewer-defined preference that is defined by a viewer of the
21 one or more client viewing devices.

22
23 42. (Original) The interactive network of claim 41, wherein the
24 one or more client viewing devices are programmed to automatically
25 display at least an indicia of an electronic presentation that satisfies one or

1 more of the viewer-defined preferences upon receiving a notification from
2 the one or more computing devices.

3
4 43. (Original) The interactive network of claim 42, wherein said
5 indicia comprises a display of the live electronic presentation.

6
7 44. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for
8 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

9 monitoring viewing habits of one or more viewers of live electronic
10 presentations to determine particular events within the electronic
11 presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view; and

12 ascertaining from data that does not comprise content that can be
13 presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would likely want
14 to view a particular event; and

15 ~~based upon monitored viewing habits,~~ notifying one or more
16 viewers when it appears that an event is occurring within an electronic
17 presentation that the viewer is not viewing but would likely want to view.

18
19 45. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
20 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event for a
21 viewer.

22
23 46. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
24 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying indicia of the
25 electronic presentation, but not the electronic presentation for a viewer.

1
2 47. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
3 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event in a
4 picture-in-picture (PIP) window on a viewer device.

5
6 48. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,
7 wherein said monitoring comprises establishing a correlation between the
8 time that a viewer views a particular electronic presentation and the events
9 that transpire during that time.

10
11 49. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 48,
12 wherein said establishing comprises evaluating viewer habits over a
13 plurality of time frames during which the viewer is viewing one or more
14 electronic presentations.

15
16 50. (Original) One or more computers programmed with
17 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause
18 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 44.

19
20 51. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having
21 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
22 computer, implement the method of claim 44.

23
24 52. (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:
25 one or more client viewing devices; and

1 one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the
2 one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being
3 programmed to:

4 monitor viewing habits of one or more viewers of live
5 electronic presentations to determine particular events within the
6 electronic presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view;
7 and

8 ascertain from data that does not comprise content that can
9 be presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would
10 likely want to view a particular event; and

11 ~~based upon monitored viewing habits~~, notify one or more
12 viewers when it appears that an event is occurring within an
13 electronic presentation that the viewer is not viewing but would
14 likely want to view.

15
16 53. (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at
17 least one of the client viewing devices comprises a television.

18
19 54. (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at
20 least one of the client viewing devices comprises a computer display.

21
22 55. (Currently Amended) A user interface for use in an
23 interactive entertainment system comprising:

24 a processor;
25

1 an application executing on the processor and configured to present
2 plurality of fields, one of which displaying a number of titles of programs
3 that can be selected by a viewer, another of which displaying indicia that
4 can be selected to define viewer preferences for simultaneously monitoring
5 two or more of the programs that are selected by the viewer, wherein said
6 monitoring comprises monitoring at least data that does not comprise
7 content that can be presented to the viewer; and

8 an input device operable to enable a user to select a particular
9 electronic presentation for continuous play viewing.

10
11 56. (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said
12 indicia is associated with predefined aspects of the programs.

13
14 57. (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said
15 indicia is associated with viewer-definable aspects of the programs.